



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

all the peculiarities of the western floras of both continents had a common origin in an ancient flora which prevailed over a wide, now submerged area, and of whose character they are the partial exponents.

---

### RECENT LITERATURE.

HUXLEY AND MARTIN'S BIOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>—The problem which has so frequently puzzled teachers in biology, namely, to know where to commence their instruction, has been most happily solved by Professor Huxley in his *Elementary Biology*. He has prepared a series of practical lessons which should be mastered by all who wish to lay a solid foundation upon which to build special knowledge in either zoölogy or botany.

The plan followed by Huxley has been to take a small number of plants and animals readily obtainable under ordinary circumstances. Of these a short description is given, followed by detailed laboratory instructions; these should enable every student to know from his own knowledge the facts mentioned in the accompanying description. He will thus gradually learn biological terms, and obtain "a comprehensive and yet not vague conception of the phenomena of life." The plan of thus paving the way to special study by careful, practical work on a few forms is not a new one. The elder De Candolle used to say he could teach all he knew of botany from a few plants, while zoölogists until recently gained their first insight into the phenomena of life mainly from the study of vertebrates, and especially of man. It is only within a more recent period that the great development given to the study of invertebrates has trained a school of zoölogists who have begun at the lower end, so to speak, and who have always retained their predilection for invertebrates in opposition to those who, having studied human anatomy and physiology, have mainly devoted themselves to the vertebrates. The latter have always worked with the immense advantage of attacking their subject with knowledge gained in a field where the constants of the science, contrasted with those known from among invertebrates, were numerous, and where the beginner never stumbled at the outset of his investigations across structural features and phenomena most imperfectly understood.

It is greatly to be hoped that the introduction of such an admirable text-book as that of Huxley and Martin will not only break down the distinction existing between the two sections of zoölogists, but will also lead zoölogists and botanists hereafter to become biologists, while following the special department to which they may from inclination devote themselves as original observers.

<sup>1</sup> *A Course of Practical Instruction in Elementary Biology*. By PROFESSOR HUXLEY and H. N. MARTIN. Crown 8vo. 6s. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1875.

This book is quite unique for a text-book on biology ; it has not a single figure. The student is called upon from the instructions to see first for himself what there is to be observed, then to make his own drawings, a process which will surely and clearly show him, or his teacher, what he has omitted. The student has no possible chance, in giving an account of what he has done, to repeat anything by rote, for should he follow the usual practice of reciting the very words of the description, he can hardly hope to give an intelligent reply to the questions of his teacher, if the latter is properly fitted to guide him in his laboratory work. The amount of solid information to be obtained by faithfully following the instructions given for the study of the frog shows the masterly hand which has prepared the questions.

The total absence of discussion of any sort is as remarkable a feature in this volume as the omission of all figures.

WHITE'S NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE.<sup>1</sup> — Reading again this delightful record of quiet, shrewd observations of the habits of birds and crickets, trees and plants, sticklebacks and hedgehogs, — in fact, the common things of the wayside and hedgerow, — by an English country curate, we have renewed the delights of our boyhood, when White's Selborne, Sandford and Merton, and the Swiss Family Robinson were the standard books. But what a contrast this gorgeous edition to the little buff paper-covered reprint in Harper's Family Library !

To the letters of White to Thomas Pennant, Esq., whose name is so indelibly connected with American zoölogy, and to the "Honourable Daines Barrington," are added some hitherto unpublished, a memoir of the author, and over a hundred pages filled with a strange medley of notes by Frank Buckland, the editor of the volume, illustrated by cuts of man-traps, a baby hedgehog, a mummied monkey, and other objects, as a rule more grotesque than useful, while Lord Selborne contributes some notes to the Antiquities.

The illustrations by Delamotte are exquisite and abundant, and the work is published in a style of elegance and luxury that will, we feel sure, lead many a country gentleman in America as well as England to give it a conspicuous place on his drawing-room table.

ANDERSON'S NORSE MYTHOLOGY.<sup>2</sup> — So much has been said in praise of this book by scholars that we can add nothing by way of commendation or criticism that will be of any importance. But aside from its literary merits, and the interest that so fresh, enthusiastic, and apparently

<sup>1</sup> *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne.* By GILBERT WHITE. With Notes by FRANK BUCKLAND, a Chapter on Antiquities by LORD SELBORNE, and new Letters. Illustrated by P. H. DELAMOTTE. London: Macmillan & Co. 1875. 8vo, pp. 591. \$12.00.

<sup>2</sup> *Norse Mythology; or, The Religion of our Forefathers.* Containing all the Myths of the Eddas, systematized and interpreted. With an Introduction, Vocabulary, and Index. By R. B. ANDERSON. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.; London: Trübner & Co. 1875. 12mo, pp. 473. \$2.50.